

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

RS22558

The intent of this legislation is to make changes to the Behavioral Health System of Care (BHSC) in Idaho. This legislation is the culmination of over a decade of committees that have reviewed Idaho's BHSC and made recommendations. There are a few major themes to recommendations that have been made by the groups during the past decade. First is the integration of the substance abuse and mental health systems. Second is to allow local communities to have more influence over the BHSC. Third is to clearly articulate the roles of system partners, public agencies, and Branches of Government. Fourth is to create a BHSC that is recovery oriented and consumer driven. In addition to these hallmarks of a transformed system, this legislation also prepares for the overall changes that are coming to behavioral health and health care in general. The BHSC in Idaho and nationally is moving toward being a payer driven system. Insurance companies, including Medicaid, will largely be responsible for clinical treatment services, but not the support services. These services, while typically less expensive, are equally if not more critical to stabilizing individuals with behavioral health disorders.

This legislation will integrate the Regional Advisory Committees (advisory to the substance abuse system) and the Regional Mental Health Boards (advisory to the mental health system) into a single entity, called the Regional Behavioral Health Board (RBHB), which can accept responsibility for the support services missing under a payer driven system described above. It will expand the State Behavioral Health on Mental Health to be the State Planning Council on Substance Abuse. This legislation will better describe the role of the State Behavioral Health Authority, DHW's Behavioral Health Division, and correctly describe the role of the Regional Mental Health programs.

FISCAL NOTE

The ongoing funds for the RBHB will be through contracts for the arrangement and delivery of support services from DHW and other system partners. By creating the RBHB as a governmental entity, they will also be able to apply for grants and other funding opportunities. DHW also intends to provide \$45,000 annually to each RBHB for a total of \$315,000 to be used for base funding for operations of the RBHBs. These funds currently exist in DHW's budget and will not require any new general or federal funds.

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